

IMPORTANT FROM NEW-ORLEANS.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER S. R. SPALDING.

RETURN OF MAJOR-GEN. BUTLER.

Address of General Banks to the People.

Gen. Butler's Parting Words to the People of New-Orleans.

THE UNITED STATES STEAM TRANSPORT S. R. SPALDING.

The United States steam transport S. R. Spaulding, Capt. S. Howes, arrived at this port on New-York's Day from New-Orleans, which port she sailed from Dec. 24. She brings as passengers Maj.-Gen. Butler and staff, and a number of officers attached to Gen. Butler's command.

In New-Orleans on the 23d Gen. Butler attended by his staff received his friends in the Mayor's parlor. Colonel and acting Mayor Deming received the General and his staff and introduced them to members of the City Government. The military officers lately under the command of the General called and paid their respects. The citizens also flocked into the parlor for two hours, and a shaking of hands says *The Delta*, "we never did see."

In the evening the General attended the Varieties, accompanied by his staff. When the General entered his box he was most enthusiastically cheered. The wit of the General to the theater was "impaired" by a threatening letter that he appeared in public to be assassinated. He was unaccompanied by soldiers, but his staff was heavily armed. Mrs. Butler was attended by Admiral Farquhar.

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The Expedition Up the Mississippi—The Occupation of Baton Rouge—Description of the Place—Large Accessions of Contrabands—Billy Wilson's Regiment at Baton Rouge.

ON THE MISSISSIPPI, thirty miles above New-Orleans, Dec. 21, 1862.

When I ascended this river, five days ago, it was with considerable expectation of witnessing a fight and for the capital of Louisiana. I return on the vessel which has almost exclusively been my home for the last three weeks—the North Star—having chronicled the peaceful occupation of the place by our troops, leaving Gen. Grover busied about many things, but not as yet belligerent. The present aspect of what I leave behind me may warrant a brief letter.

Baton Rouge is, as I have written before, all but entirely deserted by its inhabitants. What few remain have little to do, less to sell, and scarcely anything to eat. The houses remain closed; from most the furniture has been removed; all are under lock and key—in this particular scrupulously respected by our soldiers. The people are civil enough, commonly expressing a hope that their city will not again be, as they think, cruelly abandoned, thus subjecting those who remain to the indignity of declaring themselves loyal citizens of the United States to ill treatment on the part of the Rebels. Some who did this were forced into the army; slaves who gave information as to the locality of cotton were tried for their lives, and many minor outrages perpetrated. Considering that Baton Rouge had the reputation of being a semi-loyal place—people say that it sent a majority of 500 votes against secession—I think it went pretty dearly for its wealth. To be sure, it was paid pretty dearly for its wealth. To be sure, it was paid pretty dearly for its wealth. To be sure, it was paid pretty dearly for its wealth.

Guerrillas on the banks of the Mississippi—Attack on a Steamboat—Fatal Results.

ST. CHARLES HOTEL, NEW-ORLEANS, LA., Dec. 23, 1862.

opinion of the Essex were taken on the subject—and she is very well acquainted with the river hereabouts—I am advised that this would be like "wiping Louisiana's capital, not leaving 'a grease spot' to mark the locality."

That would be a pity, certainly. The city is a poor one, not at all dingy and dilapidated, like most Southern towns. Built entirely of wood, its houses painted white, with trim green blinds, it is rather New-England than otherwise, plus chins trees, magnolias, and stray samples of tropical vegetation, and minus all business. I never saw a more beautiful view of the river, and now the exceptional storekeeper stands at the door of his empty shop and tells you, either in French or in English (whichever you prefer), that he "has nothing." Perseverance may perhaps discover a little cheap tobacco, a few preposterous straw hats, a sweet potato pie, or a jar of over-ripe persimmons, but little else vendible. I strolled into the market early one morning—a long, cold, covered building, in an airy street—into the butchers' block, the benches the meat-books were all unmaned and preternaturally free from gore or grease, and the only person who had anything to sell was a solitary negro, who wanted a dollar for three small fishes. In the foreground, with a perspective of empty stalls, the fisher, he looked desolate; his solitary customer, a white man, a Frenchman, in a pleasant square, laid out in excellent taste, presenting a conspicuous landmark to passing voyagers. Its grounds were ornamented with a statue of Washington by Powers, but that, I am sorry to say, has been removed, and I am told, sent North. Without being particularly sensitive, and fully indorsing the propriety of selling and selling, I saw a man, in the shape of a bellman, one of a proud, rich, magnificent State, Senate Chamber, House of Representatives, Governor's room, Auditor's room, official apartments of all degrees—all are handsome and spacious, but deserted and littered with their contents. One goes stamping in one's heavy boots, from room to room, away, leaving unaccustomed echoes, and maps, and awnings, and benches, and registers, and pick-books, and plans, and official documents of all sorts, in French and English, discovering dusty safes of (Northern mule) crammed with heavy rolls of paper, desks empty and full, but invariably disordered in all the mute confusion consequent on abrupt disease and military occupation. In such a place, generally the perfection of order, the reverse is at once suggestive and melancholy. Descent to the lower part of the city, to the train of the railroad, on a kind of marble altar in the middle of the central round, lies a ponderous, heavily-bound volume—the State Record of Louisiana. The latter portion of its contents has been ruthlessly torn away, but in the early half you may read the ordinance of Secession, with a special preamble setting forth the particular importance and position of the great sugar State, as affected by the impending struggle.

The building is a handsome one, almost stately, Tudor in style, and constructed of brick, with a stone front and facing, the latter a little damaged by cannon and grape-shot, the windows from the bombardment of the city, but the interior is in excellent repair, and in a pleasant square, laid out in excellent taste, presenting a conspicuous landmark to passing voyagers. Its grounds were ornamented with a statue of Washington by Powers, but that, I am sorry to say, has been removed, and I am told, sent North. Without being particularly sensitive, and fully indorsing the propriety of selling and selling, I saw a man, in the shape of a bellman, one of a proud, rich, magnificent State, Senate Chamber, House of Representatives, Governor's room, Auditor's room, official apartments of all degrees—all are handsome and spacious, but deserted and littered with their contents. One goes stamping in one's heavy boots, from room to room, away, leaving unaccustomed echoes, and maps, and awnings, and benches, and registers, and pick-books, and plans, and official documents of all sorts, in French and English, discovering dusty safes of (Northern mule) crammed with heavy rolls of paper, desks empty and full, but invariably disordered in all the mute confusion consequent on abrupt disease and military occupation. In such a place, generally the perfection of order, the reverse is at once suggestive and melancholy. Descent to the lower part of the city, to the train of the railroad, on a kind of marble altar in the middle of the central round, lies a ponderous, heavily-bound volume—the State Record of Louisiana. The latter portion of its contents has been ruthlessly torn away, but in the early half you may read the ordinance of Secession, with a special preamble setting forth the particular importance and position of the great sugar State, as affected by the impending struggle.

At the door of the State House I find a sentinel and a handful of soldiers, keeping guard in one of the rooms. And for the next hour I rattle through the building, pronouncing it to have been torn by a bomb, and, in the shape of a bellman, one of a proud, rich, magnificent State, Senate Chamber, House of Representatives, Governor's room, Auditor's room, official apartments of all degrees—all are handsome and spacious, but deserted and littered with their contents. One goes stamping in one's heavy boots, from room to room, away, leaving unaccustomed echoes, and maps, and awnings, and benches, and registers, and pick-books, and plans, and official documents of all sorts, in French and English, discovering dusty safes of (Northern mule) crammed with heavy rolls of paper, desks empty and full, but invariably disordered in all the mute confusion consequent on abrupt disease and military occupation. In such a place, generally the perfection of order, the reverse is at once suggestive and melancholy. Descent to the lower part of the city, to the train of the railroad, on a kind of marble altar in the middle of the central round, lies a ponderous, heavily-bound volume—the State Record of Louisiana. The latter portion of its contents has been ruthlessly torn away, but in the early half you may read the ordinance of Secession, with a special preamble setting forth the particular importance and position of the great sugar State, as affected by the impending struggle.

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neer, was killed instantly. Mr. W. G. Reed, owner of the boat, and agent for Spofford and Tleton, New-York, received a dangerous wound, being shot through the back; Mr. W. Clark got badly hit in the arm, and two deck hands were more or less injured.

The Rebels were armed only with guns and knives. The Empire Parish had 130 hds. of sugar on board at the time; she would therefore have proved a valuable prize. Discomfited, the assailants departed to another river landing, where more sugar was awaiting shipment. The steamer returned to Baton Rouge, to procure medical assistance, and then steamed for New-Orleans.

Gen. Butler's Address to the People of New-Orleans.

The following farewell address of Gen. Butler to the people of New-Orleans was, on the evening of the 23d ult., placed in the hands of Capt. John Clark, with the request that it be issued in *The Delta* after the departure of the Spaulding. We are indebted to Col. E. M. Brown for an advanced copy of this last performance of the retiring Major-General:

CITIZENS OF NEW-ORLEANS: It may not be inappropriate, as it is not inopportune in occasion, that one should be addressed to you a few words at parting, by one whose name is to be hereafter indissolubly connected with your city.

I shall speak in no bitterness, because I am not conscious of a single personal animosity. Commanding the Army of the Gulf, I found you captured, but not surrendered; conquered, but not utterly; relieved from the presence of an army, but incapable of taking care of yourselves. So far from it, you have called upon a foreign legion to protect you from yourselves. I trusted our soldiers, and you, in your own persons, brought provisions to your starving people, reformed your customs, and gave you quiet protection, such as you had not enjoyed for many years.

While doing this, my soldiers were subjected to obloquy, reproach and insult.

And now, speaking to you, who know the truth, I here declare, that whoever has quietly remained about his business, shunning neither aid nor comfort to the enemies of the United States, has never been interfered with by the soldiers of the United States.

The men who had assumed to govern you and to defend your city in arms having died, some of your women flouted at the presence of those who came to protect them. By a simple order (No. 26), I called upon every soldier of this army to treat the women of New-Orleans as gentlemen should deal with the sex, with such effect that I now call upon the distinguished ladies of New-Orleans to say whether they have ever enjoyed so complete protection and calm quietude for themselves and their families, as since the advent of the United States troops.

My enemies of my country, unrepentant and implacable, I have treated with merited severity. I hold that rebellion is treason, and that treason persisted in is death, and any punishment short of that due a traitor gives so much clear gain to him from the clemency of the Government. Upon this I have acted with the authority of the United States. Because of which I am not unconscious of complaint. I do not feel that I have erred in too much harshness, for that harshness has ever been exhibited to disloyal enemies to my country and not to loyal friends. To be sure, I might have repaid you with the amenities of British civilization, and yet been within the supposed rules of civilized warfare. You might have been smoked to death in caverns, as were the Covenanters of Scotland by the command of a General of the Royal House of England; or roasted like the inhabitants of Algiers during the French campaign; your wives and daughters might have been given over to the ravages of the unfortunate dunes of Spain in the Peninsula war; or you might have been sent to the guillotine, as our mothers were at Wyoming by the savage allies of Great Britain in our own revolution; your property could have been burned and your lands laid waste, as was the case of the Emperor of China; your cities could have been laid waste, as was the case of the Emperor of China; your cities could have been laid waste, as was the case of the Emperor of China.

But I have not so conducted. On the contrary, the worst punishment inflicted, except for criminal acts punishable by every law, has been banishment from a barren island, where I emancipated my own soldiers before marching home, where I emancipated my own soldiers before marching home, where I emancipated my own soldiers before marching home.

It is true I have levied upon you 40,000 of the starving people of all nations assembled here, made so by this war.

I saw that this rebellion was a war of the aristocrats against the middle men; of the rich against the poor; a war of the landowners against the laborer; that it was a struggle for the retention of power in the hands of the few against the many; and I found no conclusion to be save in the subjugation of the few and the disenthralment of the many. I therefore felt no hesitation in taking the substance of the wealthy, who had caused the war, to feed the innocent poor who had suffered by the war. And I shall now leave you with the profound consciousness that I carry with me the blessing of the humble and loyal under the roof of the cottage and in the cabin of the slave, and so am quite content to leave the sneers of the sinner or the curses of the rich.

I found you trembling at the terror of servile insurrection. All danger of this kind is now past by so treating the slave that he has no cause to rebel.

I found the dungeons, the chains, and the lash your only means of enforcing obedience in your servants. I leave them peaceful, laboring, controlled by the laws of kindness and justice.

I have demonstrated that the pestilence can be kept from your borders.

I have added a million of dollars to your wealth in the form of new land from the bottom of the Mississippi.

I have cleaned and improved your streets, canals, and public squares, and opened new avenues to unoccupied land.

I have given you freedom of elections, greater than you have ever enjoyed.

I have caused justice to be administered so impartially that your own advocates have unanimously complimented the judges of my appointment.

You have seen, therefore, the benefit of the laws and justice of the Government which you have rebelled.

Why then, will you not all return to your allegiance to that Government—not with lip-service, but with the heart!

I conjure you, if you desire ever to see renewed prosperity, giving business to your streets and wharves—if you hope to see your city become again the mart of the Western World, fed by its rivers for more than three thousand miles, during the commerce of a country greater than the mind of man hath ever conceived—return to your allegiance.

If you desire to leave to your children the inheritance you received of your fathers—a stable constitutional Government—if you desire that they should in the future be a portion of the greatest empire the sun ever shone upon—return to your allegiance.

There is but one thing that stands in the way.

There is but one thing that stands in the way between you and the Government, and that is the color of your skin. The institution, created of God, which has taken its last refuge here, in its providence will be rooted out by the sword of the Lord, although the wheat be lost with it.

I have given much thought to this subject.

I come among you, by teachings, by habit of mind, by political position, by social affinity, inclined to sustain your noblest laws, if by possibility they might be with safety to the Union.

Months of experience and of observation have forced the conviction that the existence of slavery is incompatible with the safety either of servitude or of the Union. As the system has gradually grown to its present huge dimensions, it were better if it could be gradually removed; but it is better, far better, that it should be taken out at once than that it should longer vitiate the social, political and family relations of your country. I am speaking with no philanthropic views as regards the slave, but simply of the effect of slavery on the master. See for yourselves.

Look around you and say whether this seducing, deadly influence, has not all but destroyed the very framework of your society.

I am speaking the farewell words of one who has shown his devotion to his country, at the peril of his life and fortune; who in these words can have neither hope nor interest, save the good of those whom he addresses; and let me here repeat, with all the solemnity of an appeal to Heaven to bear me witness, that such are the views forced upon me by experience.

Come, then, to the unconditional support of the Government. Take into your own hands your own institutions; remodel them according to the laws of nature and of God, and thus attain that great prosperity assured to you by geographical position, only a portion of which was heretofore yours.

BENJAMIN F. BUTLER.

made of the Proclamation by the President of the United States relating to the subject of Emancipation. In the examination of this document it will be observed:

I. That it is the declaration of a purpose on the part of the President to free all the slaves in the United States, and to make good the promise of the State and parts of States, if any, which are to be affected by its provisions.

II. That the President is represented in good faith in the Congress of the United States, in his conclusion, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, that such State, and the people thereof, are not in rebellion against the United States.

III. That the State of Louisiana has not yet been declared by the President as in rebellion, nor any part thereof, and that the President is represented in good faith in the Congress of the United States, in his conclusion, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, that such State, and the people thereof, are not in rebellion against the United States.

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